

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
2/24/08 – 3/9/08

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Miller worked an ongoing over limit fishing complaint on Baraga Bay. After a lengthy investigation, a subject was observed hiding an over limit of lake trout in the bottom of a cooler. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes concluded his investigation into a retail minnow shop that was selling minnows without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund assisted the Michigan State Police with the recovery of a stolen snowmobile. The disabled snowmobile was taken from its location on the snowmobile trail to a nearby cottage where the thieves attempted to hot-wire the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken and the snowmobile was turned over to the owner.

DISTRICT 2

COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill stopped a snowmobile operator and warned him for obstructing the headlight of the snowmobile he was operating with a blue lens cover. The operator assured the COs he would not obstruct the headlight in the future. Two days later, CO Hammill contacted the same operator with a blue lens cover obstructing the headlight. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Marc Pomroy responded to a snowmobile accident where the operator had struck a fence and was seriously injured. The operator was taken to the hospital and it was determined that he had a blood alcohol content of .16%. A warrant is being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Carl Vanderwall was assisted by tribal conservation officers in investigating a litter complaint of a large trash pile dumped on state land. The investigation revealed the name of the subject who dumped the trash. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt patrolled Burt and Mullett Lakes and contacted several anglers fishing without licenses and with too many lines. One group of four anglers was fishing with 15 lines. Enforcement action was taken.

While on snowmobile patrol, CO Marc Pomroy responded to the scene of a personal injury snowmobile accident. A group of five snowmobiles were traveling at a high rate of speed down a roadway when the third sled in line lost control and rolled the machine. The fourth sled then struck the crashed sled broadside. One subject walked away from

the scene, while another was transported with head and arm injuries. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marc Pomroy policed a serious snowmobile accident in which a subject hit a tree after failing to negotiate a curve. He suffered severe injuries and was airlifted to a downstate hospital.

DISTRICT 4

CO Troy Mueller responded to a trespass complaint where a property owner watched subjects hunting coyotes release dogs on her property. The landowner did not give the subjects permission to enter her property. CO Mueller located and interviewed the subjects. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe contacted two subjects fishing on a Grand Traverse County lake with ten lines. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Dohm and Mike Borkovich responded to a snowmobile accident in Leelanau County where the operator was operating at a speed greater than reasonable. Enforcement action was taken.

Conservation officers from Mason, Manistee and Lake Counties conducted a group snowmobile patrol in Lake County targeting dangerous operation on the snowmobile trail system. The COs located numerous snowmobile operators who were operating sleds in a hazardous and careless manner including; running stop signs, operating at excessive speeds, and passing on the trails in a dangerous manner. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Carla Soper and Steve Converse followed up on a complaint of a subject who had taken a deer without a license. The subject was interviewed and admitted to taking a deer on opening morning and then purchasing a kill tag after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mark Lutz reported that a subject who was arrested for larceny of wood products, taken from a timber sale on state land, was found guilty and ordered to pay \$2,400 restitution.

CO John Huspen worked with the Michigan State Police (MSP), the local sheriff's department, and railroad personnel to address complaints of snowmobiles illegally operating on the railroad tracks and right-of-ways. The MSP troopers rode the train while CO Huspen and sheriff deputies worked the tracks. Their combined efforts resulted in numerous contacts for illegal operation including; operating on the railroad tracks and right of ways, registration violations, and careless operation of a snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell assisted local sheriff deputies with the third fatal snowmobile crash investigation in Kalkaska County this season. The operator was reported missing and a search located the victim several hours later. The victim crossed a lake at night and hit the shoreline at a high rate of speed.

CO Ken Lowell conducted a snowmobile patrol in areas where fatal snowmobile accidents have occurred. CO Lowell observed groups of snowmobiles that failed to stop at county road crossings and were running through stop signs at high rates of speed without looking for oncoming traffic. Enforcement action was taken

COs Rebecca Hopkins and Tami Pullen located a subject snaring on private property who claimed he was “nuisance trapping”. The snares being used were illegal because they did not have the required swivels or proper identification attached. The subject had not purchased a fur harvester license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Michael Hearn and Joel Lundberg responded to a snowmobile accident in which the operator suffered a separated shoulder after being thrown from his sled. The COs administered first aid until the ambulance arrived. The COs investigation revealed that the snowmobile operator was operating in a careless manner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Hearn and Sgt. Chris Morris assisted the Oscoda County Sheriff’s Department with a snowmobile accident where the subject failed to stop at the road and was thrown from the machine. The subject was transported to the hospital with a back injury. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Engelhard stopped a snowmobile being operated on the roadway without a trail permit, and determined that the operator’s license was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Daniel Lee responded to the Shiawassee River National Wildlife Refuge to assist in locating two snowmobilers who had gone into open water and were stranded on an island. One subject had been completely submerged and the second subject lost his sled while recovering his companion. The two subjects were stranded on the island for over three hours before they were located and rescued. Both subjects were treated at the local hospital.

While patrolling the Saginaw Bay area, COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson contacted a snowmobile that was operating illegally on the roadway. The operator and passenger both had suspended drivers licenses. The snowmobile was not registered, had no trail permit, and did not have a working tail light. Enforcement action was taken.

While working in Isabella County, CO Larn Strawn responded to a radio call of a motor vehicle hit and run that had just occurred. CO Strawn observed the vehicle pull into a

gas station and made contact with the highly intoxicated subject. CO Strawn was assisted by the Michigan State Police. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chad Foerster, Larn Strawn, Bob Hobkirk, and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly patrolled Saginaw Bay for ice fishing activity and found several different groups of people in possession of and smoking marijuana in their shanties. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bob Hobkirk conducted a patrol Saginaw Bay and found numerous waterfowl blinds that had not been removed from last season. The owners of the blinds were contacted and told they needed to remove the blinds. Enforcement action was also taken.

CO Gerald Thayer investigated a complaint of a subject stealing timber from and littering on private property. CO Thayer's investigation led him to a subject who was ticketed for the litter violation. The investigation of timber theft continues.

DISTRICT 7

Sgt. Bob VerBerkmoes observed a trespasser walking along the Amtrak rail tracks throw a bottle on the ground. Sgt. VerBerkmoes contacted the subject on the tracks and was informed that taking the tracks was the shortest route home. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Bauer, Zack Doss, Pat McManus, Steve Mooney, Mike Mshar, and Chuck Towns conducted a group patrol on a Van Buren County lake to address complaints that subjects were taking overlimits of panfish. CO Mshar contacted five subjects who all had their limits of panfish. Several hours later the same subjects returned to the lake and were again observed fishing for panfish. When checked by the COs, each subject had caught a second limit of fish. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Bob VerBerkmoes inspected a taxidermist and seized a buck that had an improperly validated kill tag attached. The COs investigation revealed that the subject who submitted the specimen to the taxidermist, killed the deer late on the opening day of firearm deer season, and purchased his hunting license the following day after retrieving the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a complaint of two subjects trespassing while rabbit hunting on private property in Ionia County. The trespassers were participating in a hunting contest and were in violation of the safety zone laws. One of the subjects was wanted on five outstanding arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez located a large amount of trash dumped in the Bass River State Recreation Area. CO Perez's investigation led him to a subject who admitted to dumping the trash. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was required to clean up the litter.

DISTRICT 8

CO Damon Owens contacted a snowmobile operator who was operating illegally on the railroad tracks while a train was approaching. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss and Sgt. David Malloch observed two subjects fishing on a lake that is closed to fishing. The subjects trespassed across private property to access the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith worked ice fishing and off road vehicle (ORV) activity on a local lake and observed the following illegal activity; possession of marijuana, fishing without licenses, fishing with unidentified tip ups, illegally operating an ORV on state land, and operating an ORV without the proper safety equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff contacted a subject fishing on a closed lake who had two valid outstanding arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively conducted an ORV patrol in Oakland County. The COs contacted numerous subjects fishing with too many lines, operating ORVs without helmets, operating unregistered snowmobiles, and one of the subjects had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Shively and Brandon Kieft conducted a patrol on local lakes in Oakland County. The COs observed the following violations; operating a snowmobile while having a revoked license, unregistered snowmobiles, snowmobiles operating without trail permits, fishing with too many lines, and operating an ORV without a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers, CO Ben Shively contacted a subject who was in possession of 32 bluegills while ice fishing. The subject stated that he knew he could possess only 25 fish but thought he could sort the bluegills and put back the ones he didn't want when he was done fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively contacted an angler leaving a local lake who was in possession of 34 bluegills. Enforcement action was taken.